THE UNDERGRADUATE.

VOL. XVI. MIDDLEBURY, VT., JULY, 1891. NO. 9.

The Undergraduate.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY DURING COLLEGE YEAR.

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TERMS.

One College Year, - - - - - $1.00
Single Copies, - - - - - - .12

Address all communications to EDITOR UNDERGRADUATE Middlebury, Vermont. No anonymous communication will be noced.

Address all business communications regarding subscriptions or advertisements to the Business Manager.

The UNDERGRADUATE is constantly on sale at Marshall's Book store or may be obtained of the business manager.

Editors' Table.

WE devote this number of the UNDERGRADUATE almost entirely to Commencement. We do this to give our alumni who found it impossible to attend as clear an idea as we can of our doings during commencement week. We print the Baccalaureate sermon and other addresses in full, following the example of the majority of our exchanges, and with the hope that the plan will meet the approval of our subscribers. The other departments of the paper must consequently suffer, especially the locals and personals. We hope, however, that the matter which this issue contains may be more interesting than that which the ordinary issue contains.

ANOTHER college year has passed and we have survived the final oral examinations and the searching inquiries of the examining board. Freshmen looked forward to this occasion with dread and grim forebodings and come out of the ordeal amused and surprised. Whatever may be said in favor of this system, it ought to be done away with. It cannot be expected that a student can make a fair showing of his knowledge of any subject by being called up to recite for five or ten minutes on some particular portion of it; nor can an instructor determine the extent of his knowledge so accurately as in a written test covering the entire subject. The proceedings of the examing board and the methods used in final examinations are farcical in their nature and fall short of being a fair or thorough method of examination.

THE ninety-first Commencement was the most successful one which Middlebury has ever had. Never did so much interest seem to be taken by the alumni. Long before July 1 scores had signified their intention of attending and very few disappointed us. We are much pleased to observe such interest and hope it will never grow less. An alumnus cannot show his good-will towards and love for his alma mater in any better way than by his presence during Commencement week.

THE success of the UNDERGRADUATE must necessarily depend mostly upon the support which it receives from the alumni. Beyond the subscriptions of the students and a few in the town who are subscribers, we cannot look elsewhere than to the friends of the college. Those friends are the alumni. At a meeting of the alumni held during the Commencement of last year, the matter of increasing the subscription list was considered, and an appeal was made to the alumni for their support. This has met with a partial response, but we believe there are many of the alumni who are not subscribers whose names should be on our books and whose aid we should have financially and in a literary way. It is gratifying to the editors to receive such encouragement as in the past year.

We have endeavored to get the alumni interested in our efforts and whenever asked to contribute to the columns of the UNDERGRADUATE they have responded ,in a manner which we highly commend and applaud. We ask for a continuance of this support, and trust that the UNDERGRADUATE will be so supported as to enable it to maintain the high standard of excellence which it has held in the past.

THE work on the new water system for the town has begun. It is hoped and may be reasonably expected that the class of '95 will find better water and easier means for procuring it at the college than other classes have in the past. Every room in Starr Hall should have running water, hot and cold, and the present vacation is the time for such appliances to be fitted. An extra tax, if necessary, would be willingly met by the students in return for such conveniences. It would also be well to have a bath room fitted up in each division. Such a provision would fill a much-needed and long-felt want. May it meet with the careful consideration of the trustees.

THE NINETY-FIRST COMMENCEMENT.

A FINE day and cool north breeze attended the opening exercises of Middlebury's ninety first Commencement. Sunday, June 28, at 10:45 o'clock A. M., the Congregational church was filled with people awaiting the Baccalaureate exercises. Dr. Webber conducted the opening exercises; the music was furnished by Miss Carrie Bond and the male quartette. Pres. Brainerd's sermon and address to the graduates were as follows:

II Kings, vi:16. Fear not; for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

These were the words of Elisha to his servant who was dismayed at finding that a great host of the Syrians, sent to capture the prophet, had surrounded their city. And to confirm his statement Elisha prays the Lord to open the eyes of the young man. And the Lord opened his eyes and he saw; "and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."

Men today are often in like manner timorous because blind to the thousand gracious agencies that surround them. It does not take us long to find out that this is a hard work-day world. Even without experiencing the afflictions of Job we are ready to agree with him that "man is born unto trouble as the sparks fly upward." In the battle of life we seem to see our fires more readily than our friends. Our eyes are fixed, as by some fascination, upon the glittering host of the enemy and we gaze until we are in danger of losing strength and courage. We are dismayed because we do not apprehend the presence and the character of our helpers.

It is so everywhere in life. From childhood to old age nine-tenths of our fears are groundless. They are either the ghosts of our own imagination, or a full knowledge of the situation would reveal to us an easy way of escape. How natural it is to be afraid in the dark and how fears vanish as phantoms when the light appears! It is as true in the moral world as in the physical. Our dread and anxiety in life come largely from our being in mental darkness. We are in ignorance of the kindly surroundings in which our heavenly Father has placed us.

I wish to speak today more especially concerning the existence of physical evil in the world. We often find it hard to see how, if this earth was made specially for the abode of man by a Being who loves them and desires their highest good, there should yet be in it so many sources of harm and pain. If, like the servant of Elisha we see only the outside of things in this world, the outlook is often disheartening. For the forces of nature often seem to be hostile to man. The winds may waft his ships from port to port, but they also at times break forth in fury, and sweeping over fair fields and pleasant homes, leave behind them only a track of desolation. The floods descend and bury a whole town and its helpless inhabitants in one horrible grave. Fire breaks out in a crowded city, and in one night the fair structures of commerce and the wealth of merchants are turned into wide acres of smoking ruins. The animal creation seems to be far from friendly to man, with its savage beasts, its poisonous reptiles, its all devouring locusts, its pestiferous insects and beetles and mosquitoes. The vegetable world, too, furnishes its host of enemies to man; blight and mildew, rust and decay, far more difficult foes to cope with than the pests of the insect world. And then, worst of all, are the various forms of physical disease that attack man,—fever, consumption, cancer,—causing untold suffering and carrying off the majority of mankind to premature graves.

How to reconcile the existence of this vast amount of physical evil with our belief in the power and goodness of God has been one of the great problems of religious thought, from the time when the Book of Job was written down to the present.

There are some, even in our day, who believe it impossible to effect this reconciliation, and who consequently infer that the world was not made and is not controlled by a Being who thinks and loves; but that the blind forces of nature working together through the ages have finally brought things into their present condition. They see no intelligent planning, no working to a purpose, no special love for man; only the unceasing movement of a complicated mechanism, producing wonderful results, but unreasoning and remorseless. But by far the greater part of men have held to a faith in God's goodness, notwith-

standing their inability to explain why particular evils are permitted. "His judgments are unsearchable and his ways past finding out," has in all ages been the utterance of the devout reason.

This is not the time or the place to present an elaborate theodicy, but I wish briefly to indicate a way in which much of our difficulty may be overcome. This truth is becoming more and more firmly established, that God acts in accordance with fixed laws. He might do otherwise; He has done otherwise in certain crises in the world's religious history. But as a matter of fact in all the infinite operations of nature there is a uniformity in God's method of action which is preserved inviolate through the centuries. It is one of the sublime discoveries of modern thought that the majesty of natural law is everywhere maintained. That matter attracts matter in a certain definite way, dependent upon mass and distance, is true not only on the earth and throughout the solar system, as Newton discovered; but through the immensity of the stellar universe. Light observes the same laws of behavior, whether it comes from the sun, or from Arcturus, from the distant nebula of Orion, or from the lamp in the laboratory. The movements of the winds over the face of the earth, the changing seasons, the growth of plant-life, all the phenomena of nature conform to the rigid requirements of pre-established law and order.

Just why God has seen fit to carry on the operation of the universe in this way we may not fully understand; but that such is the fact is becoming more and more clear to the human mind. There is sometimes a timid reluctance to accept this truth in all its magnitude, because we misconceive the nature of the divine Being. We are too much inclined to think Him altogether such an one as ourselves. We conceive of the physical world as having an existence apart from God, somewhat as it exists apart from us; that whatever takes place in accordance with natural law, is not His work; that when He acts there must be something supernatural, something that cannot be accounted for by the ordinary processes of nature. And so if we banish the miraculous from the theatre of the world's activities, we seem to have banished the deity himself, and to have prepared the way for a disbelief even in his existence.

But both reason and revelation utter their protest against any such deistic conceptions of nature. If there be a God at all, we must believe Him as ever present and active in the operations of nature. It is because of His life and power behind all material shows that the rythmic pulses of the world throb on through the ages, producing the beautiful order and the eternal progress that we see around us. It is but a shallow philosophy that regards nature as a piece of self-sustaining mechanism; and refuses to believe in a divine Creator unless he manifests himself from time to time by some act of disorder otherwise unaccountable.

If now we accept this induction of modern thought, that God acts in nature always in an orderly, uniform way, according to certain fixed methods which we seek to discover and formulate as natural laws, we can easily see how certain incidental evils should arise. The maintainance of law will in some cases work injury to the individual who through ignorance or carelessness gets in the way of its operation. If fire breaks out in a house it will continue to burn one thing of value after another in accordance with the laws of chemistry; until, perhaps, by the intervention of man it is extinguished, in accordance with these same laws. If the germs of yellow fever gain entrance into a crowded city in the heat of summer, it will destroy one human life after another in accordance with the mysterious laws of its action. God might prevent such evils from occurring by some miraculous interposition, from time to time. But he has deemed it better to keep inviolate the operation of natural law.

For aught that we know, this may have been the mode of divine procedure even in the remote past, and may account for the existence of a certain class of evils which have been a great stumbling block to a belief in the benevolence of the Creator. Why, it has been often asked, did God create those inferior forms of life that so afflict mankind, innocent as well as guilty. Why did he create so many noxious weeds? Why the thousand kinds of fungus that prey upon plant life? Why create the myriad insects that bite and sting, and those that devour wide acres of vegetation? Why did he create those microscopic organisms—the microbes and the bacteria which we are told infest the human body and produce most kinds of acute disease?

If the theory of the development of one species of life by natural processes from pre-existing forms of life be true, we are saved from the necessity of believing that these noxious parasites were specially created to afflict mankind. They may be rather incidental results in the great process of development, whose laws the Maker does not see fit to interrupt. Instead of their being miraculously created, it might have required a miracle to prevent their appearance. Just as the lightning is permitted to shatter a church, not because God supernaturally directs it so to do; but because he does not see fit supernaturally to prevent it.

In other words the maintenance of an orderly system in the world imposes certain necessary limitation upon even the divine activity, and involves the existence of certain incidental evils. The laws of this system the Creator determined from the beginning. In his infinite wisdom He chose that system which he foresaw would be the best system, and he maintains its inflexible order, notwithstanding the individual suffering and loss that it may incidentally occasion.

Do you say there is but little comfort in this stern view of divine Providence? If there be any sternness in it, let me remind you that it is the sternness of facts in actual life. There is a large amount of sorrow and suffering in our human lot, even if we except

that which is the direct result of human sin. What we call accident overtakes the just and the unjust alike. Misfortune comes both to the small and to the great. Disease finds victims among innocent children, among useful and virtuous men. When we behold the perils that beset us in the world, we cry out in dismay, like the servant of Elisha, "Alas, my master! how shall we do?"

But if we open our eyes and look about us, we shall see, as he saw, that they that be with us are more than they that be against us. We shall see that there are good and sufficient reasons why God should uphold the sacredness of law, and that it conduces ultimately to man's highest good.

1. Let me ask you to notice, first, how great an advantage it is to man to have perfect confidence in the constancy of nature. For as the case now stands the laws of nature are always to be relied upon implicitly. If we understand them aright we know just what consequence are to be expected. Without this confidence in natural law science would be impossible. Geology is able to decipher the history of the earth from remote ages, because she has a right to believe that the elemental forces of the world were the same then as now. Astronomy reads not only the past but the future; she is able to predict centuries in advance the exact time of the return of comets and of the occurrence of eclipses and transits, because she has a right to believe that one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law of celestial mechanics till all be fulfilled. There may be a less degree of certainty in other sciences, but it is simply because our mastery of them is as yet incomplete, not that they are less absolutely subject to the reign of law.

The old alchemists in their crude experiments with strange compounds often failed to obtain the expected results, and they ascribed their failure to the interference of some evil spirit. The crucible is said to have received its name from the fact that they carved the cross on its outside in order to keep out the fiend. We have learned that the only mischief-maker that causes our experiments to miscarry is our ignorant selves. Understand nature, comply with the required conditions of her action and she never disappoints us. No malign influence of the moon, no ill-omened star prevents her prompt response to our demands if we conform to her regulations. We never find her slumbering or absent. Question her with due precision, and she ever replies with the same unvarying truth.

Were it otherwise, were there occasional interruptions of the order of nature by the deity for the good of particular individuals, the integrity of the system would be overthrown; our unswerving confidence in the laws of nature would be destroyed. Instead of the fair structures of science that the mind of man is erecting we should have only intellectual chaos.

2. But notice in the second place that the laws of nature are capable of being turned to man's highest uses. Though nature seems remorseless when we come into collision with her forces, she is never in the least malevolent. On the contrary her operations are for the most part gracious and benign. Just because of her uniformity of action she is man's most willing and useful servant when he has learned her ways and found out how to manage her. The astounding achievements of inventive genius during the past century make further comment on this point quite needless. In the light of the past it is hard to set a limit to the possibilities of the future. The steady progress in our knowledge of the secrets of nature and our increasing dexterity in applying means to ends seem to promise to man in the near future all that heart could wish in the way of material prosperity.

This mastery of nature promises us also a way of escape from the physical evils which we have spoken of as a necessary incident to the absolute reign of law. If the electricity of the clouds at times shatters and burns our buildings, science shows us how we may protect ourselves by providing for it a proper conductor. A few years since an improperly constructed railroad bridge near Boston broke down with its load of human freight, causing a horrible loss of life and limb. Men heeded the lesson; and today a massive and beautiful stone arch spans the scene of the disaster,—a bow of promise, a pledge of future security. If cholera and pestilence are liable to invade our cities, medical science shows how by cleanliness and proper quarantine it may be kept out. If the teeming womb of nature, among other forms of life, evolves noxious insects and the germs of disease and decay, she also produces the poisons and antidotes with which to subdue them. The agricultural department at Washington recently announced the discovery of a remedy for pear-blight; and in due time the terrible ravages of other kinds of fungus may all be brought under control. Dr. Koch may, or may not, have succeeded in subduing the bacteria of consumption. But if he has not, doubtless some one else will—and not only the germs of consumption but those of cholera and fever and other zymotic diseases. We may reasonably expect the day to come when by due precaution accident and disease and all the evil that result from nature's unbending uniformity shall almost wholly disappear, and the Utopian dream of a world where nothing goes amiss, be all but realized.

3. And this leads me to notice, thirdly, that all manly qualities are best developed under the iron law of natural cause and effect. What child who has read the Arabian Nights has not wished that it might have been his fortune to possess the wonderful lamp of Aladdin and have control of a genius who could perform in an instant whatever he might desire. It takes the child some years of thought and experience to find out that things are better as they are. Our enjoyment of a good depends very largely upon our having earned it. It is as a rule proportioned to the effort that it has cost us to obtain it. Life would be robbed of all zest, if there were no risks to be undertaken, no dangers to be encountered, no good to be attained only after long and arduous labor. Suppose creative power

should change the whole earth into one vast pleasure garden, remove all weeds and thorns, destroy all noxious forms of animal life, shield us from all possibility of physical harm,—I take it, our human lot would be less tolerable than at present, have fewer healthy pleasures, more abundant weariness and satiety. When the nature of man was changed by the fall, God drove him out of the garden of Eden. It was not vengeance that prompted the act, but benevolence.

The sterling qualities of the race have been ever developed by coming into close contact with the stern forces of nature. Man needs the moral discipline that comes from the consciousness that he is surrounded by forces whose laws of action are inflexible. He is stimulated to a most thorough study of these laws, he learns to submit himself to their requirements, to repress passion and caprice, to act with caution, to master the situation in life in which he may be placed. Thus something of the eternal law and order which obtains in nature becomes incorporated into his own life and conduct. He becomes a creature of more intellectual vigor, learns self-control, acquires greater energy of purpose.

4. But, finally, the goodness of God in spite of the evil there is in the world is manifest when we consider that man's spiritual welfare is of vastly more conse quence than his physical welfare. The methods of God's operation in this life can be properly understood only when considered in the light of man s immortality. The world was not designed primarily to minister to man's comfort and happiness, but to develop character. Side by side with the realm of natural law which we have been considering, there is a realm of spiritual law, grander, more beneficent and of far more consequence to man. Here through prayer and supernatural influence we seem to come into more immediate connection with the divine Being; though, indeed, in nature He be not far from any one of us, for in him we live and move and have our being. Here in the domain of spiritual forces we find it to be especially true that they that be with us are more than they tha tbe against us. Nature may be regardless of the individual good, inflicting pain or disease or death upon the man who becomes entangled in the remorseless wheels of her mechanism. But spiritual law deals directly with the individual. Each soul is the master of its destiny. Here at least, all life needs for life is possible to will.

In the old world there is a famous picture in which Satan is depicted playing at chess with man for his soul. Prof. Huxley has used this to illustrate his view of our relation to the laws of nature. "Substitute" he says "for the mocking fiend in that picture a calm strong angel who is playing for love, as we say, and would rather lose than win—and I should accept it as an image of human life." But it seems to me even this modification does not present the case truly. It implies that the odds is against man in the battle of life. I should rather picture the angel as man's partner in the game, able to help him to certain victory if he but play well his own part.

For victory in life is not necessarily a conquest over natural forces. It is not the avoidance of disease and accident and the maintenance of bodily health. This may fail us in spite of our wisest efforts. But we may each of us enter into that larger life of the soul in all its fulness, even though maimed or encumbered by physical infirmity. Neither does success in life imply of necessity the attainment of a fair amount of this world's goods. Our years on earth may be spent in hardship with but few of the comforts and privileges that wealth can procure, But it is within the power of every man to lay up treasures of another sort, which will in the end prove more useful and enduring. Honor and social position may not be within our grasp, though we may be diligent in business, and faithful in all life's duties. But in so doing, we shall not fail of a better reward, nobility of character and fitness for a sphere of higher well-being hereafter.

Young ladies and young gentlemen of the graduating class: As the hour approaches that is to end your college work, the undercurrent of our thoughts naturally relates to your future. What has life in store for you, as you stand on the threshold of manhood and womanhood with such mental equipment as the college has been able to give? We cannot foresee the future; we can only fill it with our fervent hopes and wishes. Four years of the pleasant companionship that may exist between teachers and pupils—years that have left scarcely an unpleasant memory behind—have made us acquainted with your earnestness of character, and we believe you will manifest this same earnestness in the life that is before you.

We would not, if we could, hide from you the fact that there are great obstacles and manifold dangers to be encountered. But we would also assure you that if you are true men, you will find in God's wide universe far more help than hindrances,—more friends than foes. Let there be no nervous anxiety about securing place or position in life. The world was never more eager to secure men and women who can do good service than it is today. It is clamorous for first-class teachers, for wise physicians, for honest and able statesmen, for level-headed and warm-hearted preachers. Qualify yourselves to fill the bill and the rest will take care of itself. And remember that success in life depends less upon genius than upon honest, steady application in that line of work for which your talents may fit you. Find out wherein you can do your best, and *do it*, and await with confidence the issue.

But above all never forget that there is one form of success—and that the highest—of which you may be absolutely certain. You can be true and brave and generous; you can by loyal to the principles of Him who was the perfect man. And then, whether health and fortune and honor be your portion in life, or none of these, you will have in character the highest good either for this life or for the life to come.

On Sunday evening the church was again filled to listen to the address to the college Y. M. C. A. by the Rev. S. B. Partridge of the class of '61. Mr. Partridge has been for several years a missionary in China and his remarks were mainly on topics relating to that country. He urged the claims of China upon college young men of America. He said:

China has claims which might be urged upon us because we are citizens of the United States, a country which has wronged her; because we are of the same race as the English, who forced the opium trade upon the Chinese, and because we are Christians. But aside from these considerations the Chinese have claims upon us on account of themselves. They have some characteristics which are commendable and others which are not. They are not cleanly. They are not universally educated; not one in ten men can read, as we understand that word, and not one woman in one thousand. Even the best educated of them are ignorant from our standpoint. Every one of them is a liar—there are no exceptions—and this probably for the reason that their consciences have not been educated. The Chinese are all idolaters. Idols enter into every aspect of the people's life, but the prevailing form of idolatry is the worship of ancestors. The Chinese are superstitious in the extreme. The erection and extension of telegraph and railroad lines are hindered by this influence. These facts constitute a claim of the Chinese upon us, because they make clear the Chinaman's need of the Bible's teachings. And the Chinese are worth saving for themselves. In the first place, they are industrious. They are wonderfully patient in everyday matters, and as students, and they are persevering. They are ingenious. They are fond of animals and are successful breeders of domestic animals. They are skillful farmers; we don't need to send them pro fessional agriculturists. They are sharp at bargains; are inquisitive, imitative, observing, economical, and able diplomatists and statesmen. The Chinese are good merchants, living up to their contracts. They are first-class servants. They are the successful colonizers among Asiatics, having established themselves in many great cities of the East and in some instances supplanted the natives. Although the forces working for evil in China may seem to you here many and powerful, it should be borne in mind that they that be with us are more than they that be against us. Our God is on your side and his power will suffice to bring about the change so much to be desired there.

ALUMNI DAY.

Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock the alumni held their preliminary meeting at the chapel. In the absence of the president of the association Hon. William Slade, '36, of Cleveland, O., was made chairman.

Prof. Boyce, secretary of the association, read the minutes of the last meeting, which were approved. Prof. W. E. Howard, '71, W. W. Gay, '76, Rev. Dr. Boardman, '51, Rev. S. B. Partridge, '61, Dr. A. J. Long, '51, were chosen a committee to select six alumni from which the association at its meeting Wednesday morning might select three from whom the board of trustees could elect a member of their board.

The following were appointed a committee to nominate officers for the association and report at the meeting on the following morning: C. M. Wilds, '75, Hon. H. S. Perrigo, '70, and Dr. L. H. Hemenway, '64. The meeting then adjourned and the alumni proceeded to the Congregational church, where the public exercises of the alumni association were to be held. The church was literally packed. The Howard Opera House orchestra was in attendance and furnished music for the occasion. The proceedings were under the management of Col. Thad. M. Chapman, marshal of the day. Rev. Luke Dorland, D. D., of Hot Springs, N. C., offered prayer, which was followed by music by the orchestra. Prof. Brainerd Kellogg, '58, then introdnced the orator of the day. Geo. Wm. Ellis, '68, a prominent lawyer of New York City. His remarks were as follows:

A well-known Wall street broker of learned ancestry and English birth, in the April number of *Belford's Magazine* con tends that American boys should enter the counting room instead of the university, and to use his own words, asserts that:

"The college graduate has wasted some of the best years of his life in studies which were without benefit to his future and which kept in abeyance during those years the really nobler studies which make the mental and moral equipment of his practical rival."

A younger but eminent Wall Street financier, who, by unanimous election, holds the high office of comptroller of the city of New York, proclaims in an interview published the 22d of June, 1891, that

"The manner of conducting business is every day becoming more and more of such a nature as to offer a premium on college education. The ever increasing complexity of international trade relations and the sympathetic sensitiveness with which financial centres respond to slight changes in the political situations of different countries call forth problems, which only a broad mind, logically and carefully trained, can solve. In doing this, of course a college graduate possesses a great advantage over his less cultured competitors."

The same opinion is endorsed by the efficient commissioner of public works of the city of New York, in an interview of the same date, who says:

"All other things being equal, the college man will outrun the man who is not his peer in education."

Let us see which of these opposite views is correct. The trend of the day is towards specialties. The

division of labor which machinery has introduced is supposed to be helpful everywhere. The complex elements of modern industry force each individual to become an expert at a single bench of the great workshop and to be unfitted for everything else. The modern artisan aspires to the mastery of no trade but only to a division of it. Nowadays a jack of the whole trade is believed to be expert in no part of it. The reign of specialties has entered the domain of education. Colleges are started to train the young in special avocations. Even the broadening influence which agriculture in early days was supposed to foster has merged into an ambition for agricultural colleges. The dexterous join with the unskilled in banding together from the cradle to the grave according to avocation. In ancient times the guilds with their system of apprenticeship were supposed to be hostile to freedom and human development, but modern liberty sees no danger in returning to the discarded theories of the past. If an apprentice of four years' training can command more wages than a college graduate, why not turn all college students into apprentices? Why not follow the rules of the exchange and aim for the highest market value? This line of reasoning appeals with great force to multitudes who with their families are traveling the tread-mill of toil. Railway and factory operatives are united together for the sole purpose of raising wages. How can you convince them expensively to educate their children to a condition of less earning capacity than the apprentice whose tuition costs nothing? It is easy enough for the toiler to be made to believe that his wages are too low, but it is a very much more difficult matter to show him how to become his own employer. A wage earner or a salaried man will exhaust every resource for more pay, but just as soon as you attempt to move them out of the certainty of wages into the uncertainty of enterprise, you find them all alike, too timid to trust their own resources. The problem of self-denial and training to gain a greater, although deferred reward, is difficult of practical solution.

On this commemorative occasion, with no political or other partisan views to promote, I venture to dispute the fallacy of the hour and to protest against the destruction of our old fashioned colleges. If the usefulness of these old seats of learning has departed, then it would be fitting for us all to join the appropriate funeral ceremonies, measuring our grief by our love for the departed; but, if on the other hand, the existence of our old colleges is needed to promote thorough culture, then let us say so and see to it that their beneficent mission shall be fulfilled. Whether our colleges live or die depends upon ananswer to the question:

At what period of each individual life shall apprenticeship begin? Shall it be at the end of the preparatory school or at the end of the college course?

No argument is necessary for a thoroughly educated man to appreciate education. All the forces of mankind are strengthened by education. Pluck, grit, grasp and might in every direction are multiplied by education. The test of worth is not the day wages which the market offers to an alumnus. The test of value of collegiate training is the potential power of the graduate. Potential power is not a marketable quality in free countries. Let us briefly enquire into the history of this college. Middlebury college was founded for educational purposes. The first eighteen years of its existence was under the presidency of Yale graduates and from 1818 to the advent of President Labaree in 1840 Middlebury college was under the guidance of President Bates, a graduate of Harvard college. The character of this college during its earlier years cannot be better illustrated than by referring to a few of its alumni of that period. The late Chief Justice Stephen Royce was a graduate of the class of 1807. Samuel Nelson, the eminent jurist, who continuously adorned the bench either of the New York State Supreme court or of the United States supreme court for forty-nine years, was a graduate of 1813. Silas Wright, the statesman, who represented the great State of New York as its United States Senator for twelve years up to 1844 and then as Governor, was a graduate of 1815. Solomon Foote, for fifteen years prior to his death, in 1866, a United States Senator, was a graduate of 1826. Many other names more or less prominent might be taken from the catalogue of Middlebury college during the first forty years of its existence, all of whom, in common with those already mentioned separately and collectively, would demonstrate the breadth and thoroughness of the classical system of study then pursued. While many of the graduates became clergymen and others lawyers or physicians, yet there are not wanting on the list the names of those who proved that the development of a college course is equally advantageous in agricultural or mercantile pursuits. I refer to the history of this college prior to 1840 not for comparison with later graduates or instructors who may be found equally worthy, but solely to call to mind the records of those whose careers are so long closed as to evoke nothing but fair judgmentfrom us.

Does any one suppose that if Stephen Royce or Samuel Nelson or Silas Wright or Solomon Foote were brought back to begin life again, any of them would propose to discard the classical college course and start their special pursuits at the end of the preparatory school? I call as witness to the need of Middlebury college in the future the history of its alumni for the first forty years of its existence. Let the examination be never so thorough and penetrating, I am confident that nothing can be extracted which will in any wise impair the overwhelming force of the proof in support of this college, not in name, merely, but in the conservative classical nature of its old fashioned course. .It may be truthfully said that there is room for choice between classical colleges, but the question of today precedes such a selection. If apprenticeship begin at the end of the preparatory school, then all classical colleges should be swept away without regard

to their respective merits. If farmers sons are to be educated in agricultural colleges endowed by the bounty of the whole people, and the sons of merchants to become graduates of commercial colleges and the children of the doctor, the lawyer, the dentist and the priest are each to choose their colleges according to the calling of their parent; if the children of the artisan are to study by the fires of paternal industry, and the cook, the laundress, and the barber are each to stimulate the conceit of their trade by binding their progeny to its exclusive study; then indeed the sooner Harvard and Yale and Middlebury and all other classical colleges and all recollections of them are removed, the better for society. Nor would it be worth while to stop till all the common schools of the country shall be closed lest the unbridled intelligence of childhood might break the bounds of ancestral restraint and foment revolution.

The vast increase and general distribution of material wealth encourages the illusion that subsistence is the end of endeavor, and if this can be provided easiest by little work in a specialty, the popular demand to turn everybody into specialists is readily understood. But by no means the least duty of our colleges is to teach the rising generation that the devotion of human effort to earn the necessaries of life or even wealth with the least exertion is not the goal of education. Whether it be true that the specialist gets his living the easiest may or may not be true. It is doubtful. The objection to apprenticeship following upon the preparatory school is based upon broader grounds, of which the most important is that thereby human growth is dwarfed and can never expand into thoroughly developed intelligence. Such a system might beget a nation of machine operatives, but it would never raise up a nation of men and women worthy of our ancestors. Not the least help of a classical course is the association of the young at a formative period of life with different traditions and conditions and for divergent purposes in later years. The friction from conflicting creeds, habits and plans is in itself an educator of first importance. The chief argument on the side of largely attended schools and colleges rests on this advantage. Travel for the young throughout history has been valued because it brings them into constant contact with many different people and customs. Indeed, I would go so far as to promote the intermingling of youth according to differences in social, political, religious and race conditions. The question before us concerns the welfare of the student only up to the period of his graduation. Let him have all the broadening and strengthening aids of the old classical course of study. Don't abridge it. Don't dilute it. Greek and Latin improve with age. At the end of the college course is soon enough to adopt a special pursuit. An editorial in a New York newspaper on the 31st of March, 1891, says:

"The chief advantage of any university is not the knowledge which is acquired there, valuable as that may be. Its main advantages are the living for years where the chief interest is not the making of money, but the consideration of truth, in whatever form; the measuring of self by a large company of those of our own age, the broadening and freeing of thought by association with those whose training and influences may have been different from our own; and last, but not least, the daily contact with men of large calibre and long experience. The Bishop of Durham wisely says, in his late address before representatives of the Society of University Extension, '*A university is not a bureau, but a living body, a complex result of life.*'"

And a well-known critic, speaking of Prof. Freeman's article in *MacMillan's Magazine* for March, 1891, says:

"The grammar schools, Mr. Freeman says, exist for the universities, and not the universities for the grammar schools; and the study of Greek is to be considered from the university point of view—which is as much as to say that it is to be considered with respect to the question what is good for men, not what is good for boys. Greek, he thinks, is essential to culture, and by far the most useful of studies merely educationally and without regard to the place it may hold in after-reading."

And Prof. Freeman in his article referred to says:

"From all this I make the inference that the Greek and Latin tongues, with the literature of each and all that is contained in that literature, hold a distinct position, a position which nothing else can share, in the training of the mind. That is, I infer that classics, ... whatever we please to call them, ought still to keep the paramount place which they have hitherto kept in anything to be called a liberal education, an education whose object is the training of the mind and not the filling of the pocket. And I further infer that, of the two, Greek, the older of the two, the more remote in its earlier stages from actual modern life, the one whose influence has been mainly the indirect influence of example and analogy, is a yet more pure and perfect instrument of mental training than the kindred tongue whose relation to the daily affairs of ordinary life is so much closer."

It is often said with plausibility that the ablest thinkers of the world have not been college graduates, that in recent years such men as Horace Greeley and Abraham Lincoln, who were not college graduates, are among the first thinkers of the time, that in statesmanship, in the pulpit, at the bar, and in business of all kinds are to be found self-made men who have attained the front rank without a university education. Why not, then, our adversaries argue, save the waste of a four-years' classical college course if comparison shows it to be unnecessary? The answer to this common argument is that education is a mental condition which it is the object of classical colleges to encourage and attain; the possibility of education without college is no reason for closing up colleges any more than the possibility of travel without railroads is a reason for discarding modern express trains, or the possibility of learning the best of English from the

Bible and Shakespeare is a reason for the burning of all libraries. The question is not what can be accomplished by a few men of genius without colleges but how much thorough scholarship can be gained for everybody through the aid of institutions especially designed and officered to train the human mind to its fullest capacity It is true that all the advantages in the world will not transform a dolt into a student, but it is equally true that the stimulus of high educational aims in any community will so raise the standard of human effort therein as to make it an extremely uncomfortable home for a fool no matter how much inherited wealth he may possess. Merit can find no more appreciative support than among the beneficiaries of the best education, nor will any other state of society tend so vigorously to promote its successful growth. The original forest of the American Indian contained grand specimens of natural trees and foliage and yet the virgin soil did not begin to show its productive power until cleared and laboriously cultivated by the husbandman. And even the best cultivated lands will grow weeds and thistles if the efforts of a tireless intelligence do not keep the ground clear for desirable crops.

Judge William D. Shipman in his memorial of Roscoe Conkling before the New York Bar association says:

"Roscoe Conkling, like many other men who have risen to eminence, had not the advantages of a university education, which often confers its benefits, not so much in the knowledge imparted to the student, as by the stringent discipline which sobers, and at the same time invigorates his natural powers by the drill of a systematic course of training. Mr. Conkling never ceased to regret that he was deprived of such advantages."

The growth of accumulated capital fosters an immense increase in the non-producing class of a great nation like the United States, which would speedily become the worst poison of the body politic without the purifying influence of advanced education. Let the heir of inherited abundance understand the elemental truth that his title by descent is granted by the government only in trust to excite his ambition to improve his opportunity to the fullest advantage of society and then the greater the wealth of our country the more irresistible will be the aspiration for the improvement of the whole people. Education is too necessary a factor in the successful advance of this great country to allow any trifling with our old-fashioned colleges. The condition of the weak and the ignorant and the depraved can never be strengthened and improved except by teaching them all the wisdom of better things. Whether you try to reform the wealthy idler or the thriftless tramp, you must begin by teaching him the folly of his ignorant abuse of his opportunity. Benevolence without the sharp pangs of an awakened intellect and conscience is thrown away on profligates in all grades of life. The late Lord Houghton, in a letter to a friend in 1856, says:

"As one gets on in life, one of the most annoying reflections is the little good one has done by what people call benevolence, in fact how little man can be benefited by others."

And a prominent New York city newspaper says April 7, 1891:

"In spite of all the flood of practical benevolence, the suffering from poverty does not cease. Does not very much of it go to breed the disease of pauperism by making professional paupers as a necessary supply for the professional and salaried philanthropists now so numerous?"

Indeed if the high aims of classical study are not to be maintained, why should not professional pauperism thrive? The material rewards of professional pauperism are well expressed in the following report in one of our daily newspapers:

"The most contented people in this State," said a State functionary, "are the public paupers. The average length of life of paupers after entering the poorhouse is nearly twenty years, as is shown by official statistics; and when you consider that most of them, at the time of admission, are beyond their prime, you will see that they must live under conditions favorable to longevity. When once safely lodged in the poorhouse they not only lay aside that ambition which disturbs the peace of ordinary mortals, but are perfectly contented to stay there through life. Twenty years of content, no botheration about money or provender or rent or clothes or taxes or doctors' bills and no fear of failure in business. It is not always so bad to be a pauper in a poorhouse, after all."

If material content is to usurp the natural thrift of the Anglo-Saxon race, then what an ideal society is described by Washington Irving as follows:

"Such are the comfortable and thriving effects of a fat government. The province of the New Netherlands, destitute of wealth, possessed a sweet tranquility that wealth could never purchase. There were neither public commotions, nor private quarrels, neither parties, nor sects, nor schisms; neither prosecutions, nor trials, nor punishments; nor were there counsellors, attorneys, catchpolls, or hangmen. Every man attended to what little business he was lucky enough to have, or neglected it if he pleased, without asking the opinion of his neighbor. In those days nobody meddled with concerns above his comprehension, nor thrust his nose into other people's affairs, nor neglected to correct his own conduct and reform his own character, in his zeal to pull to pieces the character of others; but, in a word, every respectable citizen ate when he was not hungry, drank when he was not thirsty, and went regularly to bed when the sun set and the fowls went to roost, whether he were sleepy or not, ... this superabundance of good things clearly constituting the true luxury of life, according to the favorite Dutch maxim, that 'more than enough constitutes a feast.' Everything, therefore, went on exactly as it should do, and in the usual words employed by historians to express the welfare

of a country, 'the profoundest tranquility and repose reigned throughout the province.'"

Every old classical college in this country is a constant incentive to better things, not only for every pupil, but for all who hear of its existence. The debt which our common schools owe to our old-fashioned colleges is fully appreciated. Many teachers in the common schools have been educated in our colleges, and how can we calculate the individual instances where the latent ambition of childhood has been fostered into activity by the sympathetic encouragement of college men. Innumerable cases undoubtedly occur where the thirst for education starts in the unfolding of its advantages for its own sake which is the universal creed of college men. Our old colleges are the only organizations in a Republic open to the young of all classes, where their youthful development is entirely free from the entangling distractions of current passions and prejudice. Outside of our old colleges where in all this broad land could be studied the problems of literature and life without the subtle embarrassment of factional strife or upstart snobbery? The struggles for supremacy in the pathway of life afford enough chances for the display of brutal passion and senseless whims without subjecting the youth of the country to its pestiferous effect until after the four years of a college course. The potential power of advanced education has snatched many a child from the poorest home and qualified and placed him in the most exalted positions. Brains and ambition are the only aristocracy in American colleges. American colleges are the avenues through which every youth in the land is free to pass to his own reward according to his deserts. No question of birth or possessions troubles the applicant for admission. Every one stands on his own merit and carves out his own career. The latest commercial authority estimates that 25 per cent of all enterprises fail through sheer incompetency. Will the slavery of apprenticeship or the freedom of classical development better remove such incompetency? A word is not amiss in favor of our small colleges. Instruction is largely affected by its spirit. The magnetism of the faculty in a small college has fuller play than in a large one. Individual frailty is sooner seen and counteracted. Proximity to home also in many cases affords the pivotal reason for affording any college course. While the endowments and large acquaintance in leading universities are potential advantages of the first importance, it by no means follows that they become practical superiorities. The loafer cannot conceal his idleness in a crowd of students in a small college. Cliques do not prosper in small colleges. Where there is a feverish thirst for knowledge in a small college there is no reason why educational growth should not prosper there. If followed by extensive travel or by business activity among strangers there will be time enough to supplement any deficiency in after years. Small colleges, like oases in a desert, are refreshing and stimulating to their particular locality. The function of small colleges has not yet been superseded in the United States, nor do the signs of the times point to any such pre-eminence in any one or any number of the larger universities as to enlist the serious attention of all distant communities.

After Mr. Ellis had completed his address, J. C. Miller, '81, the poet of the day, was introduced. The subject of his poem was "Fire," and it was treated in excellent style. We give the poem in full:

They deem you scarcely less divine
  Who praise you but with lute and lyre
Than Zoroaster and your line
  Of Magian priests, O Fire.

What marvel that in ancient days
  The Parsee held in reverent fear
A power that made the sun's dead rays
  In splendor reappear?

Half pagan still our souls must be,
  For, when the light of day grows dim,
Beside the blazing hearth are we
  Fire worshippers with him.

. . . . . .

Some far off summer's golden beams
  Dart forth from out the wood as bright
As when they touched our youth with dreams,—
  And win back youth's delight.

The earlier hope, the old desire,
  Lies, lost, beneath the gathering years,
Till, in this miracle of fire,
  Its image reappears.

If fortune, whose uneven way
  Puzzles alike the fool and sage,
Constrains him who had thought to play
  The king upon life's stage,—

With cap and bells, with jest and pun,
  To personate the king's buffoon;
If he whose eyes were on the sun
  Can scarcely reach the moon;

If he who in the springtime vowed
  Eternal love to Muse and maid,
In autumn is a captive, bowed,
  Lashed to the wheels of Trade,—

From your deep flagon may he fill
  Life's chalice once again with wine:
By your bright blaze the man's faith still
  Clings to the lad's design.

What though but for a single hour
  He dreams of what he failed to win?
Keen as the sense of baffled power
  Is that of strength within.

No cynic lingers here to prove
  The worthlessness of life and lore;
Old tales of Rome and Athens move
  The spirit as of yore.

Your glowing embers seem to be
  The burden of Homeric strains,—
The gold of dawn upon the sea
  Beyond the Attic plains.

Your knotted logs might better far,
  Though but to give a Fancy birth,
Crumble to ashes thus, than mar,
  With moldering forms, the earth.

But from your crucible life's good,
  With all its evil disentwined,
Leaps, as the gold within the wood
  Leaps, severed, from the rind.

We half believe you have the power
  To tease from some celestial sphere
Of thought and hope one peaceful hour
  To tarry with us here.

Yea, more, we even dare to dream
  From sphere to sphere you leap and are
Persuading Hope, with shafts that seem
  To reach the farthest star.

And, since Prometheus stole you there,
  We doubt not that you still possess
The spirit of the upper air,
  Its peace and righteousness.

Sole Relic of the Olympian height!
  Sole Sponsor for the golden age!
Art, Song, Philosophy still write
  Their secrets on your page.

Strange fancies for an Age of Greed!
  Her grovelling spirit half divines
How you would mock her could she read
  Your untranslated lines.

Around the hearth a chosen few
  Consult your oracle, O Truth,
And Falsehood yields for once to you,
  And Selfishness to Ruth.

Though Fame's alluring peaks still rise,—
  More distant than to Youth's conceit,—
The world is glorified that lies
  Outspread beneath our feet.

For one brief hour the world is free
  From hate and tears, from woe, from strife;
And in your depths, O Fire, we see
  The earnest of the life

For which we long had sought in vain
  By Reason's dimly burning light;
Our path a brighter torch makes plain
  Amid the mental night.

What marvel Magian priests, of old,
  Godhead to you should long impute;
Or skilless hands, in praise, make bold
  To tempt the lyre and lute?

. . . . . .

The twilight deepens round about.
  Into its grave the last knot rolls.
And the Fire's truthfulness we doubt
  Ere yet the bell of midnight tolls.

At the close of the poem President Kellogg announced that it was customary that the poet and orator should each name a person who should become an honorary member of the alumni association. Mr. Ellis named A. C. Chapin, Williams college, '68, and Mr. Miller named E. S. Dodge, a graduate of Harvard. The exercises then closed with a selection by the orchestra. In the afternoon came the

ALUMNI DINNER,

which was one of the most pleasant parts of the whole commencement. After justice had been done to the feast, President Kellogg, in his customary entertaining manner, called for the toasts. He insisted that the speeches should be short and to the point, and they were. Prof. Howard, '71, was first called upon. He spoke of the power of the small college and the good work the college was doing. He urged the necessity of forming alumni associations, which he thought would be beneficial to the interests of the college. Rev. S. B. Partridge, '61, gave some pleasing reminiscences of his college days and also some of his experiences in China. Hon. John W. Stewart, '46, speaking for the trustees, urged the alumni to show their good will towards their alma mater by their presence at commencements, by forming organizations, by sending their children to Middlebury college and by starting endowments. Geo. W. Ellis, '68, wished the old methods of instruction continued and *men* sent out from Middlebury. Hon. James Simmons, '41, gave a short sketch of the famous men of his class. W. W. Gay, '76, made a plea for the education of college students in the duties of citizenship. Rev. Dr. Boardman, '51, spoke of the moral earnestness which characterized the graduates of Middlebury college. H. C. Royce, U. V. M., '84, spoke for the University of Vermont in a pleasant and forcible manner.

At 8o'clock in the evening the Congregational church was again filled with people who came to listen to the Parker and Merrill

PRIZE SPEAKING.

Four members of the Freshman class contested for the Parker prizes and eight members of the Sophomore class contested for the Merrill prizes. The contest was a close one. The speakers gave evidence of hard and faithful training. Prof. C. B. Wright pre-

sided and the Howard Opera House orchestra furnished the music. The judges were Principal Ferrin of Burr & Burton Seminary, Rev. S. B. Partridge, '61, and G. W. Ellis, '68. Below is given the programme :

Parker Prize Speakers.

Music. *Helen Booth*

Renyi, Stanton S. Eddy.

Opinions are Stronger than Armies. *Ostrander*
Dennis J. Hayes.

Unknown Speaker. *Anon*
Ira H. Lafleur.

The Human Mind. *Victor Hugo*
A. Asa Sargent.

Music.

Merrill Prize Speakers.

The Victor of Marengo. *Anon*
Edgar R. Brown.

God's Providence in War. *Hawley*
Gilbert E. Cady.

Under the Flag. *Wendell Phillips*
James B. Donoway.

Democracy. *Anon*
George E. Hasseltine.

Music.

Abraham Lincoln. *Deming*
Charles E. Hesselgrave.

Revolutions. *W. Phillips*
Henry G. Megathlin.

Extract from "Idols." *Phillips*
Paul G. Ross.

Chariot Race. *Ben Hur*
Frank B. Seeley.

Music.

Awarding of Prizes.

The judges made the following awards: First Parker prize to Albert A. Sargent and second to D. J. Hayes. In the Merrill contest the first prize was awarded to H. G. Megathlin; second to J. B. Donoway; third to F. B. Seeley, and fourth to Chas. E. Hesselgrave.

After the exercises the fraternities held reunions at their halls. At the

Δ. Υ.

reunion all of the active members and about 25 of the alumni were present. Among those who were present and speakers upon the occasion were H. S. Foote, '57, S. B. Partridge, '61, E. J. Ranslow, '66, S. B. Nichols, '66, R. C. Flagg, '69. Prof. W. E. Howard, '71, J. C. Miller, '82, E. J. Klock, '88, P. C. Hoyt, '89, H. M. Goddard, '90, and others. Refreshments were served in the hall and the boys departed at a late hour, after hnving a most enjoyable reunion.

Χ. Ψ.

Shortly after the exercises at the church were over the alumni and undergraduates of Alpha Mu began to assemble in the parlors of the Alpha. After a feed had been partaken of H. R. Dorr, '80, called for toasts. Speeches were continued until morning, when all went home feeling that this reunion had been a most profitable and enjoyable one. Among those present were Col. Thad M. Chapman, '66, Dr. L. D. Ross, '52, E. G. Hunt, '57, W. W. Gay, '76, H. R. Dorr, '80, C. M. Wilds, '75, C. B. Ross, '82, W. M. Ross, '86, Rev. C. S. Murkland, '81, L. H. Ross, '90, Wm. K. Dunton, '89, W. H. Sheldon, '80, A. B. Shepard, '66, E. D. Howe, '87, E. E. Howe, '88.

Δ. Κ. Ε.

Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity held its annual reunion in the chapter parlors immediately after the prize speaking. An unusually large number of its alumni were back and a few from other colleges, numbering in all about forty. After the hall had sounded with songs and speeches the party sat down to partake of an elaborate banquet. A pleasant evening was too soon passed.

COMMENCEMENT DAY.

The first event of commencement day was the meeting of the alumni, which was held in the chapel at 9:30 A. M. The committee on nominations reported as follows: For president, George Z. Erwin, '65; vice president, Charles S. Murkland, '81; secretary, Thomas E. Boyce, '76; orator, Francis Church, '69; alternate, James M. Gifford, '77; poet, James Clarence Harvey, '81; alternate, Dr. C. B. Warner, '77. The report was accepted and adopted and those mentioned were elected. Prof. Boyce, of the necrological committee, made his report; it appeared that these alumni had died during the past year: Rev. Thomas J. Conant, '23; Pliny R. White, '27; Rev. Calvin Selden, '36; Col. William J. Brown, '37; John J. Latting, '38; Jesse E. Tenney, '38; Dr. Charles L. Allen, '42; Henry Watkins, '42; Dr. Jonathan A. Allen, '45; Charles E. Phelps, '45; Rev. Ira D. Burwell, '47; Rev. Guy C. Strong, '47: Major Sewall Sargent, '49; Rev. Oliver W. Winchester, '49; Judge Simeon S. Willard, '50; Rev. E. P. Wild, '60; Dr. Sidney H. Foster, '70; Dr. Preston Sheldon, '74; William LeRoy Brett, '77; Edward Gibson Jenks, '85; Frank F. Douglas, '89. The committee appointed to nominate candidates for member of the corporation reported these: C. M. Wilds, '85, W. W. Walker, '53, H. S. Perrigo, '70, E. H. Phelps, '61, H. R. Dorr, '80, and James M. Gifford, '77. Wilds, Dorr and Gifford received the greatest number of votes and their names were proposed to the corporation.

The subject of the support which the alumni should give to the UNDERGRADUATE was next taken up. Sev-

eral plans were suggested whereby the alumni could become better acquainted with their college paper. Prof. Howard drew up the following resolutions, and they were adopted:

Resolved, That we heartily endorse the UNDERGRADUATE, and recommend it warmly to the alumni as a valuable means of uniting our common interests in the college and our interests in each other.

Resolved, That the secretary be instructed to forward a copy of these resolutions to each alumnus who is not a subscriber.

The meeting then adjourned.

Immediately after the meeting the alumni and students formed in line, and, headed by the Middlebury Cornet band, marched to the Congregational church, where the graduating exercises were to be held. Col. Thad. M. Chapman was marshal and J. F. McNaboe assistant. Every available seat in the church was occupied and the aisles were filled with people who could not obtain seats. President Brainerd conducted the exercises. On his left and right respectively sat the members of the corporation and faculty. The programme was as follows:

Prayer.

Overture—Marionetten. *Gurlitt.*
Oration, with Salutatory Addresses, The Iron Law of Wages.
Ernest Calvin Bryant, Manchester, N. H.
Oration, The Responsibility of the People.
Ezra Watkins Benedict, Manchester.
Oration, The Abolition of Fines.
Frank David Boynton, Potsdam, N. Y.
Chilian Dance. *Missud*
Essay, Philosophical, The Stability of Government.
Sarah Blossom Palmer, Middlebury.
Oration, Russia's Treatment of the Jews.
Vernon Charles Harrington, Middlebury.
Oration, Our State.
Thomas Hazard Noonan, Addison.
Oration, The Modern Dictator.
Ira Elias Pinney, Ludlow.
Waltz—Bride Songs. *Gungl*
Essay, Historical, Stephen Cassin and His Mission.
Sarah Grace Seely, Middlebury.
Oration, The Hero of Molokai.
Daniel George Reilly, Thorndike, Mass.
Oration, The Spirit of the Fathers.
Frederick Hogle Walker, Burlington.
Oration, with Valedictory Addresses, Is Education All?
Carl Abel Mead, West Cornwall.
Concert—Schottische Madelon. *Senel*
Master's Oration.
Herbert Williams Denio, A. B., Port Henry, N. Y.
March—Beggar Student. *Arranged by Theo. Moses*
Conferring of Degrees and Awarding of Prizes.
Benediction.

The Master's oration by H. W. Denio, '88, is printed below in full:

A law of the financial and commercial world is the alternation of prosperity and depression, the seasons of which have no certain duration, and terminate without a warning to the casual observer. A panic is a sudden fright in a center of trade and exchange developed from the feeling of distrust which is inevitable during a depression. The financial panics of this country originate in New York, those of Germany in Berlin, of France in Paris, a crash that affects the whole world occurs in London.

Last November witnessed a stock panic in New York, the causes of which were remote. Its lessons are well worth noting by the student of the world's history.

In the productive and commercial worlds the interests of humanity have become closely bound together. The solidarity of the human race has passed from a theory and from morals to commerce. The commercial conditions of many lands must be known before we can fully understand those of one. The study of any particular crisis is largely the study of its prelude.

A panic is not caused by a scarcity of money, although money is scarce enough then. There is often just as much money in the country during the week of the panic as there was the week, or the month, or the year before. The difference is that before the panic it could be hired, but in the panic it cannot at any rate of interest. But there are scientific causes for a panic, causes that have existed for months, and perhaps years. However unreasonable a panic may be, there are reasons for it. A brief review will reveal some of the causes of the panic of last year. Our country often seemingly sets at defiance laws of trade and finance which the experience of older countries has established, until it seems as if a new code applicable to us alone is written by events. No doubt but retribution comes here as elsewhere from over-trading, from unscientific experiments, and from false financiering, but it seems to come very slowly and only after a repeated scattering of the clouds which appeared about to break,—some new industrial development deferring the catastrophe. A nation that has grown rich while paying a debt of thousands of millions of dollars incurred in a currency greatly depreciated; a nation that built railroads absurdly in excess of the needs of the moment and yet almost immediately found for them active employment; a nation that begins the coining of silver with a standard above its value and goes on coining it month after month for years in spite of continual depreciation; a nation that receives year after year hundreds of thousands of immigrants, many of them in various stages of destitution—such a nation must have elements of strength not found elsewhere or must constantly be on the verge of a financial catastrophe. Some or all of these conditions have been the minor causes of every depression that has occurred during the last twenty-five years.

A closer view will discover the factors that produced the particular crisis of last November. The silver agitation of the previous months was not the controlling factor. The crop reports were not sprung on Wall street. There had been no over-production of manufactured goods. The lion and the lamb among the railroad presidents were about to lie down together, for there had been no unusually savage rate cutting during the previous months. Nov. 1 found the country as a whole industrially and commercially in an extremely prosperous condition. The general business of the first three-quarters of the year was beyond that

of the same period of all former years. Since 1888 the condition of the railroads had been improving; their stocks and bonds had been rising; the new mileage had been normal, and everything looked favorable for comparative peace among them and good profits. The yield of wheat, corn and oats was much less than that of the preceding four years; to compensate this, however, the prices were so much better that could the entire crop have been put down in New York during the early fall months, at the ruling rates, the proceeds would have varied but little from those of the preceding year. The cotton crop was the largest ever raised. The total foreign exports and imports were larger than ever before. The protracted agitation in Congress and out concerning unlimited free coinage finally began to make itself felt. A buoyancy in silver existed in Wall street. The railroad securities sympathized and prices went up until in May they were at high water mark. The demands for money for new enterprises were strong all over the land during the entire ten months, rates were high, the calls on New York and New England for money to go west and south became more and more imperative. As the summer wore away a strain began to be felt. The street felt a grand swell that could hardly be located. Suspicion was rife; the bank reserves went below the legal limit; the November elections cast a gloom over the land; heavy orders to sell at any price came from London; interest jumped to 186 per cent. and the crash was upon us. Bankers and brokers went down in the storm. For the third time in history clearing house certificates were issued among the banks of New York, Philadelphia and Boston. Without these scores of banks would have failed; with them the tide was partially stayed. When it became known just what was the cause of all this trouble confidence began to return. The market rebounded from its lowest point.

The causes of the panic of Sept. 18, 1873, and of the terrible months preceding and following it were internal. Inflation and expansion at an enormous rate had been going on since the war. A reaction was inevitable. May 14, 1884, was another culminating point. The rise and development of gigantic speculations in railroads came near causing a serious financial crisis. A crash was precipitated by the discovery of fraudulent financial operations in New York city. Unlike these panics, that of last November had its prime cause from a foreign source. The restless American is not the only man who engages in wildest schemes and pursues a will o' the wisp. The self-sufficient Englishman, the volatile Frenchman and the sturdy German, each in his own way, will launch his Argo, and with a Jason for captain, will sail away in quest of the Golden Fleece. The tales of adventure of modern days, of fortunes made and lost in South America can hardly be matched by ancient lore. The Argentine Republic, with a population of less than 4,000,000, and with an area of one-fourth of the United States, has been the especial field for incomparable inflation and speculation. For years gold has been borrowed from European bankers to pay the interest on older debts, and for the purpose of building houses, waterworks and railroads. The issue of paper money had been most lavish and without sufficient security. A rebellion imperilled property. A London banking house, which had no superior and but one peer in all the wide world, had become overloaded with securities from that Republic. For months it had become deeper and deeper involved with the expectation of being able to control or at least hold in check those finances. In order to gain some ready money the house sold cautiously and stealthily many of their United States securities. The volume of these sales became so great that after May our market, without any known cause, began to drop. However carefully and rapidly the American securities were sold, the shrinkage in South American securities became still more rapid. Nov. 6 the great proud house of Baring Bros. & Co. of London applied to the Bank of England for help. A loan of 80,000,000 of dollars was made and an extension of three years given. The old house was completely wrecked; a new company was organized to settle up its affairs. All this was accomplished before Wall street knew what was going on. Nov. 15 we learned the facts, but most of the harm here had been done. The week of suspense, of doubt and of suspicion had accomplished its work. The day the news came has seldom been equalled even in Wall street. In two hours the sales at the stock exchange were twenty times that of the average daily sales. But it was a half holiday, and before Monday morning came time was given to recover. The want was over. Failures continued to occur, but they were the rumblings after the tempest. The panic intensified any embarrassments that happened to exist in the western cities and States. It checked every industry in the land. The amount of suffering it caused, however, has been incomparably less than that of 1873.

We find in trade centers financial as well as commercial houses that engage exclusively in foreign business. They unite themselves intimately with the banking institutions of distant points, they promote vast industrial extensions, they sometimes engage to float a provincial or national loan. They thus become in fact the clearing house of the financial operations of one country for the money-lenders of another. Their position is an extremely responsible one. They are the first to scent any impending danger and their position enables them to call a halt if they choose. This was the relationship of Baring Bros. & Co. of London with the Argentine Republic. Their greed and presumption fostered a ruinous rate of interest and aided the wildest land speculations. Their folly was excessive. They had more than two full years in which to command a halt, but they never did it except in a half-hearted way until it was too late. Rashness was followed by a disaster in the Argentine Republic, a financial catastrophe befell London and extended over

the world. We are taught that man does not live by himself alone. This is true in all of his relations. We are coming to recognize the unity of the business world. The financial blunder of a man injures his neighbors, that of a community affects the State, that of a nation embraces the world.

The exercises were of a high order and passed off pleasantly. The degree of A. M. was conferred upon May Anna Bolton, '87, H. W. Denio, '88, and E. J. Klock, '88. Highest honors in classics were granted to C. A. Mead; highest honors in modern languages to Ezra Benedict, and honors in classics to V. C. Harrington. The Waldo scholarship prizes for the year were announced as follows: '91—First, E. C. Bryant; second, C. A. Mead; third, T. H. Noonan. '92—First, J. F. McNaboe; second, B. C. Colby; third, A. McDonald. '93—First, C. E. Hesselgrave; second, E. R. Sturtevant; third, F. B. Seeley. '94—First, O. J. Sawyer; second, S. S. Eddy; third, A. A. Sargent. A prize equal to second was awarded to Miss S. B. Palmer, '91; a prize equal to second to Miss A. B. Sheldon, '92; a prize equal to first to Miss A. L. Ritchie, '94, and a prize equal to third to Miss L. S. Clark, '94.

The corporation dinner was eaten at the Addison House on Wednesday afternoon. It was largely attended. President Brainerd was toastmaster. Speeches were made by Ex-Gov. Ormsbee, Hon. L. D. Eldredge, Rev. E. J. Ranslow, Rev. Dr. Blanchard and Principal Ferrin of Burr & Burton Seminary. The

SENIOR CONCERT

Was the finest ever given in Middlebury, and drew a larger crowd than any other previous concert. It was a financial success, the class clearing over $300. Below is the programme:

1. Overture—Prometheus. *Beethoven*
   Orchestra.
2. Variations—on Carnival of Venice. *Benedict*
   Miss Howe.
3. "O Cara Memoriam" *Servais*
   Miss Pray.
4. { *a.* Pilgrim's Chorus—from Tannhauser. *Wagner*
   { *b.* Hungarian Dance—in D major. *Brahms*
   Orchestra.
5. Bonnie Sweet Bessie. *Gilbert*
   Miss Howe.
6. Romance. *Goltermann*
   Miss Pray.
7. Symphonie in B minor—First Movement in Allegro Moderato. *Schubert*
   Orchestra.
8. Spanish Dance. *Popper*
   Miss Pray.
9. Echo Song. *Eckert*
   Miss Howe.
10. March—from Athalia. *Mendelssohn*
    Orchestra.

After the concert came, what is to the students, perhaps, the most enjoyable part of commencement. We refer to the

COMMENCEMENT HOP.

About 60 couples were present; in fact there was too large a crowd to make the dancing thoroughly enjoyable. The dancing was kept up until five o'clock Thursday morning, and then commencement was at an end.

Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity had its annual ride Saturday, June 27. They intended to take an excursion trip on Lake Champlain, but owing to the roughness of the lake in the morning the steamer was unable to make the trip, so the party, consisting of the active members and alumni, enjoyed a tally-ho rde to Bread Loaf mountain, visiting, on their way, Lake Dunmore. The party returned home about 9 o'clock Mr. and Mrs. Smith acted as chaperones.

The members of the Chi Psi fraternity and alumni with ladies went to Burlington Saturday, June 27. In the afternoon, on the yacht Marquita, they visited the most important places on the lake. Returning had tea at the Van Ness House and arrived home on the 9:30 train. The trip was a very pleasant one.

Town and Campus.

[*Items for this department from the town should be such as are of general interest to the alumni. A college monthly can't be a local newspaper, and items purely of local value as news are not wanted.*]

College opens Sept. 10.

Twenty alumni died last year.

Prof. Paton sets sail on the 25th inst.

The class of '81 had a reunion this year.

We are glad to see the organ back again.

The class of '95 is expected to number about 40.

The ladies are to have a dormitory, we understand.

Murphy, '94, will spend the summer at Lake Placid.

Mr. Adsit conducted the chapel exercises Thursday, June 11.

Miss Chandler of Akron, O., is the guest of Prof. C. B. Wright.

Prof. G. Yager has resigned his position as a member of the faculty.

A large number of students attended the reception given by Mrs. Stewart.

From all appearances there will be a large number of co-eds in '95.

Carl A. Mead, '91, will teach Greek in Burr & Burton Seminary next year.

Boynton, '91, spent a few days in northern New York looking up freshmen.

Prof. Yager was a member of the examining committee of Wesleyan University.

Prof. Signor of the Ogdensburg academy visited college during commencement.

The ladies of the Baptist church held a social at Mr. T. E. Wells' place on the 17th.

Miss Mamie Allen gave a pleasant party to her many friends on the eve of the 29th.

Miss Blanche McCue of Boston has been the guest of Miss C. Bond for the past few weeks.

O. J. Sawyer, '94, played the organ at the Congregational church Sunday evening, June 28.

Prof. A. Armagnac of Tarrytown was the guest of Prof. Yager during commencement week.

Prof. Arthur L. Janes and Rev. A. A. Cambridge were members of the examining committee.

Sturtevant, '93, has been appointed monitor over the Senior and Freshman classes for next year.

Rev. J. D. Kingsbury of Bradford, Mass., preached at the Congregational church, Sunday, the 7th.

A. McDonald has been elected treasurer of the boarding house in place of T. H. Noonan, '91.

Mr. Signor of Ogdensburg was at college during commencement week; he intends to enter college.

Eight members of the class which graduated from the High school this year will enter college next year.

It is a remarkable fact that not one man of the class of '66 has died since the graduation of the class.

The Burlington district convention of the Epworth league was held with the local chapter during the 7th of July.

Prof. Arthur L. Janes has been engaged to take Prof. Paton's place as professor of Latin. We wish him success.

The Senior class gave a reception at the boarding hall Wednesday evening, 24th. The faculty and their wives were present.

Rev. Mr. Keith, late pastor of the Congregational church, arrived home from California June 3. His health is much improved.

A hotly contested game of ball was played on the campus, 25th, between the clerks of the town and the marble cutters. The score was 25 to 18 in favor the latter.

Prof. and Mrs. Eaton are at Andover, Mass., his old home. They will go thence to the seaside and be out of town for about a month.

Rev. Dr. Webber delivered the baccalaureate sermon at Bradford before the graduating class of the ladies' seminary there.

Several good ball players are expected in the class of '95. This will probably enable us to put a good nine in the field next year.

The Middlebury High school team defeated the St. Albans High school on the campus June 20; score, 4 to 5, making the second victory from them.

President and Miss Brainerd, Miss Chickering of Washington, D. C., and Mr. Joseph Battell started on the 6th for a trip by carriage to the north part of the State.

Prof. and Mrs. H. E. Scott and child arrived in town on the 19th from Jacksonville, Ill., and are the guests of Mrs. Scott's parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Chapman.

The graduating class of the high school gave a pleasant reception to their many friends at the home of Miss Ella Bond. An enjoyable evening was passed. Music was furnished by the Rutland orchestra.

The class of '90 held its reunion and banquet at the Pierce House on the morning of July 2. They organized by electing L. H. Ross president and W. H. Button secretary. It was voted to have a reunion in 1900.

Prof. and Mrs. Wright, their guests, Misses Alexander and Chandler of Akron, O., Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Boynton, Miss Burgess, Prof. Scott and others enjoyed a carriage trip across the mountains to Rochester. They arrived home on the 11th by way of Lake Dunmore.

Delta Upsilon fraternity had its ride Monday, June 29. They went to Vergennes and thence boarded a steamer and visited the places of interest on the lake, returning home in the evening. The party consisted of twenty-four persons. A delightful day was too soon passed.

At the annual meeting of the Athletic association held Monday, June 22, the following officers were elected: President, A. Macdonald, '92; vice president, J. B. Donoway, '93; secretary, E. R. Sturtevant, '93; treasurer, P. G. Ross, '93; base ball man-

ager, W. J. Douglas, '93; foot ball director, W. J. Douglas, '93; gymnasium director, O. J. Sawyer; field-day director, B. F. Wynne.

The members of the Senior class held their last class meeting at Prof. H. M. Seely's, Friday night, and elected Ezra W. Benedict president; Sarah Grace Seely, secretary. The class voted to adopt the "letter packet" system to keep each other informed as to what the class was doing; that every living member should be back to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the college in 1900. Nearly all the members of the class are located for next year. E. W. Benedict is engaged as principal of the Bristol High school; E. C. Bryant takes a post-graduate course at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Ira Pinney takes up journalism; D. G. Reilly, medicine; F. D. Boynton, principal Union Free school, Webster, N. Y.; S. G. Seely, post-graduate at Vassar; T. H. Noonan, teaches; Sarah B. Palmer continues her studies, and V. C. Harrington enters Andover Theological Seminary.

Personals.

[*The editor of this department appreciates the fact that it is one of special interest to the alumni. But as they are widely scattered and many are unknown to him, he asks them to send to the Undergraduate from time to time whatever items they may come in possession of and thus aid in making this department what the alumni desires it to be and what the editors endeavor to make it.*]

'60. John Ross has been elected a member of the San Francisco bar.

'61. Ezra J. Warner has returned home from a trip to Europe.

'64. Dr. Hemenway and wife were in town on the 18th.

'66. A. S. Shepard of Waddington, N. Y., was back to Middlebury for the first time since his graduation.

'75. C. M. Wilds was elected to the board of trustees at the annual meeting of the corporation.

'76. Prof. J. W. Abernethy has been seriously ill for some time and is now in Vermont.

'79. Joseph Battell arrived home June 6 from his trip through Canada.

'82. Prof. S. J. Preston is visiting his home in Vergennes.

'83. Dr. Samuel Sheldon and bride will spend the summer in Middlebury at his mother's.

'84. F. H. Knowlton of the Smithsonian is one of the editors of the scientific department of the *Century* Dictionary.

'86. Miss May B. Chellis is spending her vacation at her home in Meriden, N. H.

'87. Miss May A. Bolton has resigned her position as preceptress of the High school.

'87. G. R. Wales was recently appointed by Secretary Proctor a member of the Central Board of Examiners of the United States Civil Service Committee to represent the war department.

'87. G. R. Wales, who recently graduated from the Columbian Law school, Washington, D. C., has been admitted to the bar in Virginia, but will continue in the War department the coming year.

'87. Frank A. Warfield has completed his course at the Hartford Theological seminary and will take a pastorate in New Hampshire. His first sermon was preached in the house where his father entered the ministry.

'80–87. Miss May A. Bolton was married on July 4 to A. C. Peck of Boston. The honeymoon will be spent in Boston and New York.

'88. Prof. B. L. Brown has been offered a situation in the State Normal school at Greeley, Colorado, at a salary of $2500 per year.

'89. L. W. Austin, who has been studying at Clark University, will return to Strasburg, Germany, next year.

'90. W. H. Van Allen has resigned his position in the Rutgers Grammar school to become head master of St. Johns school in New York city at a salary of $2000.

'90. A. D. Mead is spending the summer at Wood's Holl, Mass., pursuing scientific investigations. He will study abroad next year at one of the German universities.

'90. E. B. Clift will spend the summer in Middlebury.

'90. B. W. Sherman of Chicago will make Middlebury his home part of the summer.

'90. Prof. L. H. Ross has resigned his position in the Burr & Burton seminary, and will, during his vacation, tutor several young men who are preparing for college.

'90. C. N. Pray, who just graduated from the Chicago Law school, intends to practice in that city.

'90. H. R. Pearson is making a success at the law in Chicago as junior member of the firm of Page & Pearson, located at 85 Dearborn street.

'90. George Groves is engaged in the coal business at Chicago.

The attendance of alumni this year was large. The following were present:

J. Blanchard, '32, Chicago, Ill.; William Slade, '36, Cleveland, O.; Dr. J. G. Wellington, '38, Middlebury, Vt.; R. D. H. Allen, '41, Terryville, Conn.; Luke Dorland, '41, Hot Springs, N. C.; D. M. Linsley, '41, Millville, N. Y.; James Simmons, '41, Lake Geneva, Wis.; Timothy C. Smith, '42, Odessa, Russia; O. Wooster, '44, Rutland, Vt.; Hon. J. W. Stewart, '46, Middlebury, Vt.; A. J. Long, '51, Whitehall, N. Y.; Rev. S. W. Boardman, '51, Maryville, Tenn.; George Denmore, '51, St. Albans, Vt.; Rufus Wainwright, '52, Middlebury, Vt.; L. D. Ross, '52, Poultney, Vt.; W. W. Walker, '53, Burlington, Vt.; Thos. H. McLeod, '54, Middlebury, Vt.; Hon. L. D. Eldredge, '57, Middlebury, Vt.; H. S. Foot, '57, Addison, Vt.; E. G. Hunt, '57, Brooksville, Vt.; Chas. S. Colburn, '58, Pittsford, Vt.; Capt. S. E. Burnham, '58, Rutland, Vt.; Prof. Brainerd Kellogg, '58, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Lyman W. Peet, '61, Cornwall, Vt.; Rev. S. B. Partridge, Reading, Mass.; Rev. C. N. Thomas, '61, New Haven, Vt.; Charles E Abell, '61, Orwell. Vt.; Dr. L. H. Hemenway, '64, Manchester, Vt.; Dr. C. E. Prentiss, '64, New York city; President Ezra Brainerd, '64, Middlebury, Vt.; Rev. E. J. Ranslow, '66, Swanton, Vt.; A. B. Sheppard, '66, Waddington, M. Y.; Col. T. M. Chapman, '66, Middlebury, Vt.; Rev. W. R. Nichols, '66, Norwich, China; Hon. J. M. Slade, '67, Middlebury, Vt.; Hon. G. W. Ellis, LL. D., New York; Frederick D. Mussey, '69, Washington, D C.; Hon. H. S. Perrigo, '70, Potsdam, N. Y.; T. P. D. Matthews, '70, Cornwall, Vt.; Prof. W. E. Howard, '71. Middlebury, Vt.; C. R. Turrill, '73, Burlington, Vt-; Hon. C. M. Wilds, '75, Middlebury, Vt.; F. G. Swinnington, '75, Rutland, Vt.; G B. Willard, '76, Vergennes, Vt.; Prof. T. E. Boyce, '76, Middlebury, Vt.; W. W. Gay, '76, Chicago, Ill.; Edward Dana, '76, Rutland, Vt.; A. T. Stapleton, '77, Middlebury, Vt.; Joseph Battell, '79, Middlebury, Vt.; Dr. Fremont Hamilton, '78, Middlebury, Vt.; H. R. Dorr, '80, Rutland, Vt.; Dr. W. H. Sheldon, '80, Middlebury, Vt.; P. M. Meldon, '80, Rutland, Vt.; Rev. Chas. S. Murkland, '81, Manchester, N. H.; S. J. Preston, '82, Mamaroneck, N. Y.; C. B. Ross, '82, West Rutland, Vt.; J. C. Miller, '82, Boston, Mass.; George Stewart, '82, Middlebury, Vt.; F. A. Walker, '82, Ludlow, Vt.; Dr. Samuel Sheldon, '83, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Rev. Frank B. Hyde, '84, Middlebury, Vt.; M. H. Dana, '86, New York City; W. M. Ross, '86, Rutland, Vt.; Edwin Howe, '87, Valida, N. Y.; Miss M. A. Bolton, '87, Middlebury, Vt.; Eugene Howe, '88, Albany, N. Y.; E. J. Klock, '88, Wallingford, Vt.; H. W. Denio, '88, Port Henry, N. Y.; P. C. Hoyt, '89, Wsst Addison, Vt.; W. K. Dunton, '89, Rutland, Vt.; L. W. Austin, '89, Winter Park, Florida; Robert M. Collins, '89, Washington, D. C.; A. E. Cushman, '89, Rutland, Vt.; L. H. Raine, '89, Albany, N. Y.; C. K. P. Cogswell, '89, Gambier, O.; H. M. Goddard, '90, Ludlow, Vt,; L. H. Ross, '90, Poultney, Vt; B. W. Sherman, '90, Chicago, Ill.; J. M. Thomas, '90, New Haven, Vt.; B. W. Norton, '90, Weybridge, Vt.; E. B. Clift, '90, Middletown Springs, Vt.; H. E. Owen, '90, Port Henry, N. Y.; George M. Groves, '90, Chicago, Ill.; Charles N. Pray, '90, Chicago, Ill.; Wm. H. Button, '90, Middlebury, Vt.; F. H. Button, '90, Middlebury, Vt; F. L. Bell, '91, Potsdam, N. Y.

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